

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3626  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026**

**USE OF AI IN CANCER SCREENING**

**3626 SHRI MASTHAN RAO YADAV BEEDHA:**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has undertaken any initiatives for the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in cancer screening and early detection;
- (b) if so, the details of pilot projects, programmes using AI for screening of cancers along with the outcomes including accuracy of detection;
- (c) the details of hospitals and technology partners involved in development and deployment of AI-based cancer screening tools;
- (d) the details of funds allocated, sanctioned and utilised for the same during the last five years, year-wise; and
- (e) whether Government has taken any steps to expand AI-enabled cancer screening in public health facilities, especially in rural and underserved areas?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY  
WELFARE  
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) to (e). Under the aegis of the India AI Mission, an initiative led by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the Cancer AI & Technology Challenge (CATCH) Grant Program has been launched in partnership with the National Cancer Grid (NCG). This programme invites collaborative proposals from clinical institutions and technology innovators for the development, pilot testing and validation of AI-based solutions across the cancer care continuum, including AI-enabled screening and diagnostics. Selected projects receive milestone-based pilot funding of up to ₹50 lakh, with opportunities for additional scale-up support up to ₹1 crore for wider deployment, subject to demonstrated clinical readiness.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the 'Strategy for AI in Healthcare in India' (SAHI) and the 'Benchmarking Open Data Platform for Health AI' (BODH) on 17th February 2026 during the India AI impact summit. SAHI is a national guidance framework to enable the safe, ethical, evidence-based, responsible and inclusive adoption of artificial intelligence across India's healthcare system. 'Benchmarking Open Data Platform for Health AI' (BODH) provides a structured mechanism for testing and benchmarking AI solutions before deployment at scale. SAHI has been developed after intensive consultation with all the major

stakeholders of the healthcare ecosystem, including academia. Further, BODH has been developed in partnership with Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur.

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) provides a sandbox environment and integration toolkits that allow health technology developers to integrate their applications/ software including AI screening tools.

The National NCD Portal developed under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of NonCommunicable Diseases (NPNCNCD) provides a comprehensive digital platform for population enumeration, risk assessment, screening, referrals and continuum of care for common NCDs, including cancers such as breast, cervical and oral. The portal integrates mobile and web apps for frontline health workers (ASHA/ANM) and facilitylevel staff, enabling data capture and followup across Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs) and District Hospitals. It is linked with ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) IDs and supports standardized electronic health records, streamlined referrals and realtime monitoring of screening and outcomes across the health system.

The details of SPIP Approvals for National Programme-Non Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD) under NHM during the period of F.Y. 2021-22 to 2025-26 are as under :-

<b>Year</b>	<b>SPIP Approvals (₹ in lakhs)</b>
2021-22	60,659.39
2022-23	1,18,470.27
2023-24	1,16,823.45
2024-25	1,51,052.88
2025-26	1,30,288.67